



Wyoming Primary Schools

Elm • Hilltop • Vermont

December 13, 2024

Dear WPS Families,

For the next few weeks, I will be highlighting some of the instructional approaches we use at Wyoming Primary Schools to provide all students with the building blocks needed for the future. This week, I will share information about a key component of our math instructional practices, Exemplars.

Exemplars Math Tasks are high-quality, performance-based tasks that engage students in complex problem-solving and critical thinking. These tasks are intended to provide opportunities for students to engage with complex mathematical concepts and apply these concepts in real-world situations. Here's an explanation of what Exemplars Math Tasks involve:

1. Standards-Based

- **Aligned with Curriculum Standards:** Exemplars tasks are aligned with national and state standards, including Ohio Learning Standards. This ensures that the tasks are relevant and directly support the curriculum's learning objectives.

2. Real-World Problem Solving

- **Contextualized Problems:** The tasks are set in real-world contexts, making math relevant and meaningful for students. They often involve scenarios students can relate to, such as planning a trip, budgeting, or analyzing data.
- **Open-Ended:** Unlike traditional math problems with a single correct answer, Exemplars tasks are often open-ended, allowing for multiple solution paths and answers. This encourages creativity and deeper thinking.

3. Rigorous and Challenging

- **High Cognitive Demand:** These tasks require students to use higher-order thinking skills, such as analysis, synthesis, and evaluation, rather than just recall or simple computation.

- **Multiple Steps:** Students must often complete several steps to arrive at a solution, requiring them to plan, organize their thinking, and persevere through challenging tasks.

4. Formative and Summative Assessment

- **Assessment Tools:** Exemplars tasks can assess student understanding and ability to apply math concepts. Teachers can use them to assess students' progress and understanding throughout a unit (formative) or as a comprehensive assessment at the end of a unit (summative).
- **Rubrics for Scoring:** Each task typically comes with a rubric that outlines criteria for assessing students' work, including problem-solving, reasoning, communication, and accuracy. This helps ensure consistency and objectivity in grading. It is also a great tool for students to self-assess which leads to ownership of their learning.

5. Focus on Mathematical Practices

- **Mathematical Practices:** Exemplars tasks emphasize the mathematical practices outlined in the Ohio Learning Standards, such as making sense of problems, reasoning abstractly and quantitatively, constructing viable arguments, and using appropriate tools strategically.
- **Communication of Reasoning:** Students are often required to explain their thinking, either orally or in writing, which helps develop their ability to articulate mathematical reasoning clearly and logically.

6. Differentiation

- **Variety of Tasks:** Exemplars provide a range of tasks with varying difficulty levels, allowing teachers to differentiate instruction based on students' abilities and needs.
- **Support for All Learners:** The tasks can be adapted to support struggling students or to challenge advanced learners, making them suitable for diverse classroom environments.

7. Engagement and Motivation

- **Student-Centered:** Because the tasks are engaging and connected to real-life situations, they tend to motivate students and make learning more enjoyable.
- **Encouraging Ownership:** Students take ownership of their learning as they work through complex problems and arrive at solutions independently or collaboratively.

8. Examples of Exemplars Math Tasks

- **First Grade Example:**

Exemplars

Name: _____

P/S	R/P	Com	Con	Rep	A/Level

A Book About Dogs ©

A Book About Dogs

Jamal loves dogs. Jamal is reading a book that has many pictures and facts about dogs. Jamal reads fifty pages and stops to eat lunch. After lunch, Jamal reads forty-nine more pages and finishes the book about dogs. Jamal wants to know how many pages he read about dogs. How many pages should you tell Jamal he read about dogs? Show all of your mathematical thinking.

- **Third Grade Example:**

Exemplars

Name: _____

P/S	R/P	Com	Con	Rep	A/Level

Ben's Apple Pie ©

Ben's Apple Pie

Ben's mom makes an apple pie. Ben's mom cuts the pie into eight equal pieces. Ben and three friends each eat one piece of apple pie. Ben says they ate one-half of the pie. Brad says they ate four-eighths of the pie. Who is correct? Show all your mathematical thinking.

Overall Impact

Exemplars math tasks provide students with opportunities to take the math skills they've learned in class and apply them to real-world scenarios. These tasks go beyond basic practice by challenging students to think critically and solve problems that are relevant to everyday life. This not only strengthens their conceptual understanding but also gives them a chance to explain their reasoning, engage in discussions with peers, and explore multiple ways to approach a problem. By working through these tasks, students develop stronger problem-solving skills and gain confidence in using math in meaningful, authentic ways.

Have a great weekend!

Dr. Gina Kirchner

Principal, Wyoming Primary Schools

Counselor Corner

During the past week the Cowboy TV lessons focused on empathy, and empathy has also been the overarching topic of Cowboy Counselor Time lessons in recent weeks. Empathy is feeling or understanding what someone else is feeling. Empathy helps us to understand how someone else feels even when we aren't in the same situation ourselves. Empathy allows us to put ourselves in someone else's shoes and see things from their perspective. As a result, empathy helps us understand and relate to other people. Showing empathy is a skill; therefore, a person can always improve his/her ability to empathize. As a parent, you can help your child develop empathy by teaching your child to read people's facial expressions and body language. Also, when reading, encourage your child to think about and discuss what the characters might be feeling and why. Another activity you could do is choose a topic about which you and your child disagree, such as the amount of screentime your child should have each day. Then, have a conversation from one another's perspective and try to convince each other that the other person's viewpoint is correct while maintaining fun-loving demeanors!

Holiday Spirit Week

We're excited to invite all students to join us in celebrating Holiday Spirit Week during the week of December 16th! Each day will have a fun, festive theme to bring some extra joy and cheer as we head into winter break. Participation is completely optional—this is simply a chance to add a little extra fun to our final week of school in 2024. Please see the schedule below for details.

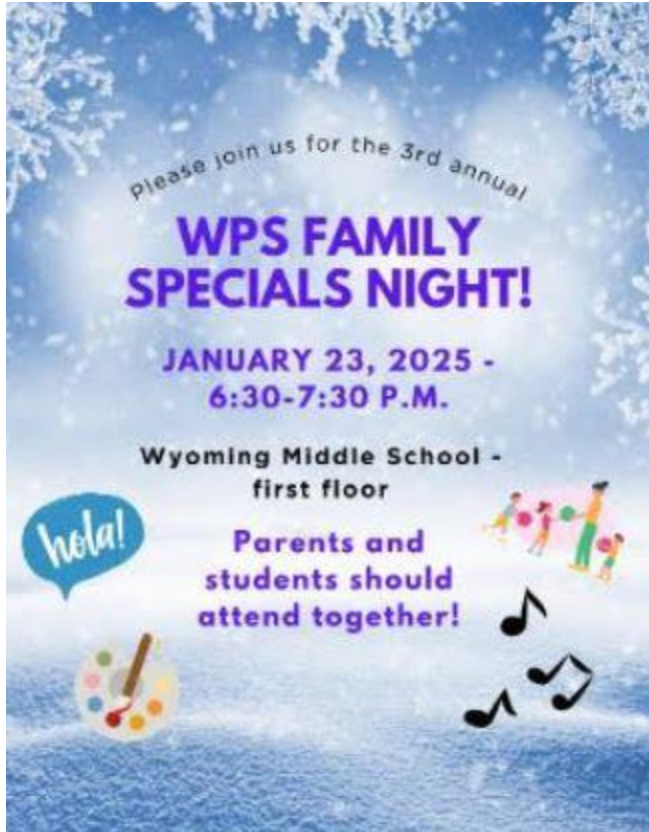


Display My Art Fundraiser

Thank you for a successful fundraiser through Display My Art. At this time, all of the orders have been distributed. If you placed an order, but it has not made it home, please reach out to Becky Bauer at vermontpacreps@gmail.com.

Save the Date! Family Specials Night

Mark your calendars for our third, annual Family Specials Night on Thursday, January 23rd from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Wyoming Middle School. At this event, WPS families and their students will participate in fun activities connected to P.E., Music, Spanish, and Art with our amazing specials teachers! We hope to see you there!



Upcoming Dates

- **Winter Parties** - Friday, December 20
 - Half-Day Kindergarten Party - 10:30-11:15
 - Full-Day Kindergarten and Grades 1-4 Parties - 2:30-3:15
- **Winter Break** - December 23rd - January 3rd
- **Professional Development Day - No School for Students** - January 6th
- **Family Specials Night** - Thursday, January 23rd - 6:30-7:30 at Wyoming Middle School

[View the full WCS calendar here.](#)

News from Around Wyoming

[Click here for more Events and Information from around WCS & the community](#), including:

- Finance Friday: Paid Off!
- Upcoming Events
- WyoShop Hours
- All Pro Dad Community Event

Photos from the Week

Click [HERE](#) to view photos from the week at WPS!